

One Billion Chinese Files Were Likely Leaked by Sloppiness, Not Hacking

Poor security practices may have led to one of the largest breaches of personal data in history.

Today, I logged into my work computer to find this news article that instantly grabbed my interest. I am sharing it with you all today as it is a clear reminder that we all have personal and professional responsibilities to practice good records and privacy management within our organisation and to educate our organisation on how they too can work with their records and information in a responsible way to protect both organisation and individuals. While this case appears to point towards poor IT governance rather than record keeping or personal practice, it is a clear example of the vulnerabilities that we need to be aware of and address as we work in this hybrid and more progressively digital environment.

As an Information Manager I have responsibility to ensure that Records and Privacy Impact Assessments are completed when we introduce new technology, services or software. I now use RCAT, as it has the content I need to cover within the modules to ask all those questions, including the cybersecurity questions (which are then investigated and completed by our IT Team).

At our next MAV LGIG meeting on the 22nd July 2022 we will look at how RCAT, Information Assets Register and PDSP are all helping us to protect our own organisations from such threats.

We have big responsibilities in this space and MAV LGIG are with you all the way to support you to success.

Tim Culpan, opinion reporter, wrote in [Bloomberg](#) 5th July 2022, that poor security practices resulted in a police database data leak affecting more than 1 billion people!

The most astounding aspect of the case may be that “basic errors in digital hygiene” caused the leak rather than a cyber-attack!

Data leaked included names, identification information, mobile numbers, the original source of the data, reference to the first time the details were entered into the database and purchase information.

It is believed the data was discovered and then offered for sale by an opportunist who came upon the content, rather than it being a deliberate hack.

e should not lose sight of the fact that 1 billion people are now potential victims of, yet another digital breach caused by bad security practices.

**By Ruth Edge
Cardinia Shire Council**